

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sterilization container system comprising:
an enclosure defining an interior volume;
5 an upwardly facing surface in the interior volume;
a flexible elastomeric mat having a downwardly
facing surface resting upon the upwardly facing surface;
and

wherein the downwardly facing surface is provided
10 with a pattern of ridges and wherein the pattern is such
that no fold line can traverse the mat from one side to
the other without intersecting at least one ridge.

2. A sterilization container system according to
15 claim 1 wherein the pattern is such that no fold line
can traverse the mat from one side to the other without
intersecting a plurality of the ridges.

3. A sterilization container system wherein the
20 ridges have a height of 0.5 mm to 10.0 mm.

4. A sterilization container system according to
claim 3 wherein the ridges have a height of 0.75 mm to
5.0 mm.

25 5. A sterilization container system according to
claim 4 wherein the ridges have a height of 1.0 mm to
4.0 mm.

6. A sterilization container according to claim 1 wherein the flexible elastomeric mat is formed of silicone.

5 7. A sterilization container according to claim 6 wherein the silicone has a hardness of less than 90A on the Shore A Scale.

10 8. A sterilization container according to claim 6 wherein the pattern extends substantially across a dimension of the lower surface.

15 9. A sterilization container according to claim 1 wherein the mat further comprises a plurality of upwardly projecting members.

20 10. A sterilization container according to claim 1 wherein the mat further comprises a plurality of apertures therethrough.

 11. A sterilization container according to claim 1 wherein the pattern is continuous.

25 12. A sterilization container according to claim 1 wherein the pattern is discontinuous.

 13. A sterilization container according to claim 1 wherein the pattern comprises concentric shapes.

14. A method of sterilizing an item comprises the steps of:

5 placing a flexible, elastomeric mat into an enclosure having an interior volume;

placing the item onto the mat; and

10 levitating the mat above a bottom surface of the enclosure via a pattern of ridges on a lower surface of the mat, the pattern being such that no fold line can traverse the mat from one side to the other without intersecting at least one ridge.